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mails by belligerents intent upon searching for hostile cargoes or dispatches, the escape from their moorings of dangerous submarine mines into the path of innocent commerce on the high seas, the seizure and destruction of neutral prizes by cruisers, and the use made by them of neutral ports as a basis of operations after taking on supplies of coal.

There is an interesting chapter on contraband of war, in which the rules of the two powers are compared, to the advantage of Japan. As to coal, railway material, provisions, and a number of articles which enter into the daily life of non-combatants, or which keep up the industries on which they depend, Japan followed the custom of England and America by distinguishing between what was absolutely and what conditionally contraband, according as it was to be used for private or war purposes. Russia made such articles absolutely contraband, interfered unreasonably with commerce, finally became oppressive, and had to make amends.

Although charges and counter-charges were made on both sides as to the violation of the Red Cross rules, most of the accusations proved either to be unfounded or capable of satisfactory explanation as unavoidable misunderstandings. Russian and Japanese surgeons and nurses treated friend and foe alike after a battle. The dead were respected and prisoners more considerately treated than in almost any other war. The author takes up the investigation of the accidental firing by the Russian fleet upon the Hull fishermen, and the friendly mediation of President Roosevelt, which brought the war to an end. There is also a full account of the treaty of Portsmouth.

While the book of necessity deals with the amelioration of the conditions of war after it has begun, its general effect upon the reader is to make him feel that after all so-called war regulations are respected, and, though not so desirable as preventive measures, are practical. The book in this respect vindicates the work of the first Hague Conference and helps one to understand reasons for the changes that have been made by the second Conference. Its effect is to give us new hope in the peace movement through the improvement of international law. More than ever should the nations rely for justice and security not on their armies and navies, but on the wise and beneficial agreements made and to be made at The Hague.

ERASMUS AGAINST WAR. With an introduction by J. W. Mackail. Boston: The Merrymount Press. Price, \$6.00.

This is the second volume in the Humanists' Library, edited by Lewis Einstein, and printed at the Merrymount Press, under the supervision of D. B. Updike. The purpose of the Humanists' Library is to print, in a form as nearly as possible like the books made in the early days of the printer's art, "a series of books, each one of which shall be characteristic of some aspect of the culture which flourished in Western Europe during the period of the Renaissance." This effort to reproduce the elegant style of printing of those early days is what makes the price so high. It is probable that no more beautifully printed book ever came from a Boston house than this "Erasmus Against War," which we wish everybody had the money, as some do have the money, to buy.

Erasmus's views on war are well known to all of the older peace workers. They were frequently published and discussed sixty years ago, and had large influence in the early development of the peace movement. But the present generation of workers knows little of them. It is therefore a very great service to the younger students of the history of the movement to have this brief but most important treatise of Erasmus put at their disposal. Mr. Mackail's introduction will enable readers to understand and appreciate much more easily and fully the immense importance of Erasmus's services, in that early and difficult time, to the great and now triumphing cause of world peace.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE CONFLICT, ITS CAUSES AND ISSUES. By K. Asakawa, Ph. D., with an introduction by Prof. Frederick Wells Williams. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 383 pages. Price, \$2.00 net. Postage, 16 cents.

This work is, and is likely to remain, a valuable statement of the causes that led to the war between Russia and Japan. It is written by a Japanese lecturer at Dartmouth College and appears to be just what the author tries to make it, a fair presentation of the case. The main text of the book is preceded by two introductions: one of them by Professor Williams of Yale, and the other by the author himself. The latter introduction is full of interesting detail of use to other writers, containing information on the economic and political questions involved in the struggle. Among the chapters that follow are the "Retrocession of the Liao-Tung Peninsula," the "Cassini Convention" and the "Railway Agreement," "Port Arthur and Taliens-Wan," "The Occupation of Manchuria," "The Anglo-Japanese Agreement," "The Convention of Evacuation," etc.

A full account of the diplomatic struggle between the Russian and Japanese diplomats over the status of Korea and their respective claims in it is given, together with the negotiations which led to the outbreak of the war, and the declarations of war and neutrality issued by Russia and Japan. The book is illustrated with a map of the disputed territory and pictures of some of the great characters in the drama.

AS THE HAGUE ORDAINS. Journal of a Russian Prisoner's Wife in Japan. New York: Henry Holt & Company.

The title of this book gives in advance little clue to its contents. It is only toward the end, where the author brings out in ever clearer light the manner in which the Japanese military officials scrupulously observed in their treatment of the Russian prisoners the rules of the Hague Convention on the laws of war, that the appropriateness of the words "As The Hague Ordains" becomes apparent. The book is a most readable one, full of life and movement. It is really a work of art, difficult as it is to make a work of art out of battles, and hospitals, and broken heads, and limping legs, and bandages and anti-septics. The author is evidently a lady of extraordinary cleverness, of much culture, insight into character, and admirable tact, as well as unfailing courage. The daily installments of her journal throw much light on the